

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation application of: 09/523237  
Application Serial No. 08/893,300  
Atty. Docket No. GP068-03.CN1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-421 without prejudice.

Kindly add the following new claims:

422. (New) A kit for amplifying a target nucleic acid sequence contained in a target nucleic acid which may be present in a sample, said kit comprising:

a) an oligonucleotide primer containing a first base region which forms a stable hybrid with a second base region contained in said target nucleic acid under amplification conditions, wherein said first base region contains one or more ribonucleotides modified to include a 2'-O-methyl substitution to the ribofuranosyl moiety; and

b) written instructions for performing an amplification procedure using said primer.

423. (New) The kit of claim 422, wherein said first base region includes one or more clusters of at least 4 of said modified ribonucleotides.

424. (New) The kit of claim 422, wherein said first base region includes one or more clusters of at least 6 of said modified ribonucleotides.

425. (New) The kit of claim 422, wherein said first base region includes one or more clusters of at least 8 of said modified ribonucleotides.

426. (New) The kit of claim 422, wherein each nucleotide of said primer is a ribonucleotide modified to include a 2'-O-methyl substitution to the ribofuranosyl moiety.

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427. (New) The kit of claim 422, wherein said primer includes one or more conjugate molecules.
428. (New) The kit of claim 422 further comprising at least one oligonucleotide probe.
429. (New) The kit of claim 428, wherein said probe contains one or more ribonucleotides modified to include a 2'-O-methyl substitution to the ribofuranosyl moiety.
430. (New) The kit of claim 428, wherein said probe includes a label.
431. (New) The kit of claim 430, wherein said label is a chemiluminescent molecule.
432. (New) The kit of claim 431, wherein said chemiluminescent molecule is an acridinium ester derivative.
433. (New) The kit of claim 428 further comprising one or more hybridization reagents.
434. (New) The kit of claim 422 further comprising one or more nucleic acid polymerases.
435. (New) The kit of claim 434, wherein said primer is capable of having nucleoside triphosphates added to its 3' terminus by at least one of said polymerases.